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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. FREITAS do AMARAL
(President of the General Assembly)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

ORGANIZATION OF THE FIFTIETH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS: MEMORANDUM BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/BUR/50/1 and Add.1)

Section IV: Adoption of the agenda (continued)

Items to be included in the agenda

Item 158

1. Mr. LAMAMRA (Algeria) said that by adopting resolution 2758 (XXVI), which had restored all its lawful rights to the People's Republic of China, the General Assembly had marked a decisive turning-point in the evolution of the United Nations towards universality. His delegation was proud to have sponsored that resolution, which had unequivocally endorsed the sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity of China. Since that position of the General Assembly was still fair and relevant and promoted the maintenance of international peace and security, his delegation, reiterating its position adopted at the forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions, supported the request of the Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China that the General Committee should not recommend the inclusion of item 158 in the agenda of the fiftieth session.

2. Mr. MOUBARAK (Lebanon) reaffirmed his country's commitment to General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which had recognized that the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China were the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations. That resolution had decided on the political, legal and procedural representation of China at the United Nations. Moreover, the General Committee had already decided not to include that item on the agenda of the forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions of the General Assembly. Therefore, his delegation opposed the request in document A/50/145.

3. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Guatemala had asked to participate in the discussion of item 158 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

4. At the invitation of the Chairman, Ms. Fuentes Orellana (Guatemala) took a place at the Committee table.

5. Ms. FUENTES ORELLANA (Guatemala) said that the situation of the United Nations with respect to the Republic of China on Taiwan constituted an anomaly. The United Nations was duty bound to eliminate all geographic obstacles to its action if it wanted to live up to its universal nature, fully accomplish its lofty purposes and attain the ideals enshrined in the Charter, especially with respect to the fundamental objective of the maintenance of peace. That principle of universality even required the United Nations to ensure that non-Member States of the United Nations acted in conformity with the principles of the Charter to the extent required for the maintenance of international peace

and security. It was in line with the same major principle of universality that the United Nations granted observer status to States or to entities which could be treated as States or provided for the representation of divided countries, as had been the case of Germany and, currently, North and South Korea; parallel representation did not impede eventual unification of the parties involved. In that regard, mention could also be made of the recent admission of States with comparatively small territories. Thus, to date, the principle of universality, which was the very foundation of the Organization, had prevailed despite considerable political obstacles, except in the case of Taiwan. Moreover, it was common knowledge that the Republic of China on Taiwan had all the characteristics of a State. It was an entity with a clearly demarcated territory under the authority of a completely autonomous Government, which exercised jurisdiction without any restriction whatsoever over the population that lived in that territory. Moreover, about 30 countries maintained diplomatic relations with the Republic of China on Taiwan and unreservedly accorded it the status and prerogatives of a sovereign State. After 1971, the Republic of China on Taiwan had become party to a number of multilateral and bilateral treaties whose other signatory parties did not necessarily maintain diplomatic relations with it. In addition to the fact that many States had established close trading ties with the Republic of China on Taiwan and maintained continuing diplomatic relations with its authorities, it should be stressed that the mere lack of diplomatic relations did not necessarily mean non-recognition of the Republic of China on Taiwan, since the lack of diplomatic relations was often nothing more than a façade. Specifically, the courts of certain countries which did not have diplomatic relations with the Republic of China on Taiwan nevertheless accorded it the jurisdictional immunity enjoyed by sovereign States. Thus, although the Republic of China on Taiwan obviously existed as both a de jure and a de facto subject of international law, the United Nations persisted in ignoring it completely.

6. The attitude of the United Nations in the economic sphere was just as paradoxical and unjustified. The Republic of China on Taiwan had become an economic and financial Power of the first order, which maintained close and fruitful relations in all areas with other countries of the world. The assistance which it provided to third-world countries made it a force to be reckoned with.

7. Despite all the foregoing, the attitude of the United Nations might still be justified if the Republic of China on Taiwan disregarded the values that the Organization was trying to promote. However, Taiwan had a democratic system of government which was characterized by free elections at all levels and respect for human rights. In its relations with the outside world, the Republic of China on Taiwan observed all the principles that promoted the maintenance of peaceful relations and cooperation between States. The ostracism of Taiwan penalized it particularly with respect to multilateral treaties adopted under the auspices of the United Nations, because Taiwan could accede to such treaties only on a voluntary and unilateral basis, which did not make such treaties as binding as they would have been had the Republic of China on Taiwan been a contracting party to them.

8. Thus, paradoxically, the majority of countries maintained very close ties with the Republic of China on Taiwan on an individual basis but ignored it completely within the framework of the United Nations.

9. Finally, as a sponsor of the proposal, her delegation wished to stress that it was basically procedural and was not intended to impose any solution whatsoever to the problem. By adopting the draft resolution annexed to the explanatory memorandum, the General Assembly would merely establish a mechanism to study the issue. In view of all the above-mentioned arguments, she hoped that the General Committee would recommend the inclusion of item 158 in the agenda of the fiftieth session.

10. Mr. FEDOTOV (Russian Federation) said that, as a matter of principle, his delegation supported the territorial integrity and sovereignty of China. The question of the representation of China had been resolved by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which had unequivocally recognized that the People's Republic of China was the only representative of China to the United Nations. Therefore, his delegation rejected the request to include that question in the agenda.

11. Mr. HUARAKA (Namibia) said that, should the General Committee recommend the inclusion of item 158 in the agenda, it would be reopening the decision taken by the General Assembly in its resolution 2758 (XXVI), which had settled once and for all the question of the legal and political representation of China. His delegation fully supported the statement of the representative of the People's Republic of China and believed that the question of Taiwan concerned China alone and could be decided only by the Chinese people. Moreover, the General Committee had already rejected similar requests at the forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions. His delegation was therefore against the inclusion of that item in the agenda.

12. Mr. OBADI (Yemen) said that he wished to stress that the Committee had already considered the item at the two previous sessions and had decided not to recommend its inclusion in the agenda.

13. Yemen believed that, in adopting resolution 2758 (XXVI) restoring the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China to its seat in the United Nations in 1971, the General Assembly had settled the question once and for all, at the legal, political and procedural levels. Since the United Nations was composed of sovereign States, the inclusion of the item in the agenda would constitute interference in the internal affairs of China and an encroachment on its sovereignty and territorial integrity. The principles of universality or equitable representation did not apply to the current case. Yemen therefore supported the position of the delegation of the People's Republic of China that the item should not be included in the agenda.

14. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Myanmar has asked to participate in the discussion. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to accede to that request.

15. It was so decided.

16. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Deir (Myanmar) took a place at the Committee table.

17. Mr. DEIR (Myanmar) said that for his Government, there was only one China, and Taiwan was an integral part of the Chinese territory. He therefore shared the view of the People's Republic of China on the question and was opposed to the proposal for parallel representation in the United Nations of the Republic of China on Taiwan.

18. Mr. MUTHAURA (Kenya) said that he was opposed to the inclusion of item 158 in the agenda for four reasons. First, in its resolution 2758 (XXVI), the General Assembly had unequivocally recognized that the People's Republic of China was the sole legitimate representative of China in the United Nations. Second, the question of Taiwan was an internal matter of China and the principal of universality did not apply. Third, the Committee had already rejected similar proposals at the forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions. Fourth, his delegation believe that the Committee should not reconsider its previous decision since no new aspects had emerged in the meantime.

19. Mr. GUTIÉRREZ (Costa Rica) said that Costa Rica maintained diplomatic relations with the Republic of China on Taiwan and was one of the signatories of document A/50/145. As a peaceful, democratic and demilitarized country, Costa Rica hoped that a peaceful solution would be found to the dispute between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China on Taiwan, drawing on the ancient culture and wisdom of the Chinese people. Costa Rica, like the rest of the international community, welcomed the efforts made by the leaders of the two parties and wished to convey the respect and admiration it felt for the Chinese people as a whole.

20. Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan) said that his delegation remained strongly opposed to the inclusion of item 158 in the agenda of the fiftieth session and fully supported the position of the People's Republic of China. The proposed item was a flagrant violation of the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign State. The issue of the representation of China in the United Nations had been settled unambiguously in General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which had recognized that "the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China are the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations and that the People's Republic of China is one of the five permanent members of the Security Council". That decision, under which the People's Republic of China had regained the seat that had been denied to it for many years and Taiwan had been expelled from the United Nations, left no room for any future reconsideration.

21. Pakistan firmly believed that Taiwan was an integral part of the People's Republic of China and that therefore the "principle of universality" and the "model of parallel representation of divided countries" referred to by the sponsors of the request were irrelevant. Any consideration of the request for inclusion would infringe upon China's sovereignty and would gravely undermine the purposes and principles of the Charter.

22. His delegation was therefore strongly opposed to the inclusion of item 158 in the agenda of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly and hoped that the

Committee, as in the past two years, would uphold its decision to reject a proposal for inclusion which had no justification on political, legal or even procedural grounds.

23. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Gambia had asked to participate in the discussion of item 158 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

24. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mrs. Saine (Gambia) took a place at the Committee table.

25. Mrs. SAINE (Gambia) said that she supported the request for the inclusion of item 158 in the agenda, appearing in document A/50/145.

26. Mr. PEERTHUM (Mauritius) said that he shared the view of the Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China on the question under consideration. In that respect, he recalled resolution 2758 (XXVI) in which the General Assembly had explicitly decided "to restore all its rights to the People's Republic of China and to recognize the representatives of its Government as the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations". His Government was therefore opposed to the inclusion of item 158 in the agenda of the fiftieth session.

27. Mr. TSHERING (Bhutan) said that despite the far-reaching changes that had taken place in the world, the main considerations which had led to the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had lost none of their validity. Any change in the provisions of that resolution would require the support of the majority of Members of the United Nations, and Bhutan therefore felt that the Committee should not recommend the inclusion of the item in the agenda.

28. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Sri Lanka had asked to participate in the discussion. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to accede to that request.

29. It was so decided.

30. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. de Silva (Sri Lanka) took a place at the Committee table.

31. Mr. de SILVA (Sri Lanka) said that for Sri Lanka, there was only one China, and therefore it did not support the theory of "two Chinas". Moreover, there was no established formula for the parallel representation of countries which were divided. The former German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany, on the one hand, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea, on the other, were special cases which could not be invoked to justify the parallel admission of the Republic of China on Taiwan. In each of those two cases, the countries concerned had concluded an agreement with each other. It was for the Chinese people to settle the question. In that respect, Sri Lanka welcomed the continuing dialogue between the two parties.

32. Sri Lanka therefore fully supported the position taken by the Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China.

33. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Syria had asked to participate in the discussion of item 158. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to accede to that request.

34. It was so decided.

35. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Hallak (Syrian Arab Republic) took a place at the Committee table.

36. Mr. HALLAK (Syrian Arab Republic) supported the position of the Chinese delegation, which opposed the inclusion of item 158 in the agenda. His delegation considered that Taiwan was an integral part of China and that the 1943 Cairo Declaration and the 1945 Potsdam Agreement provided for the restoration of Taiwan to China. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) stipulated that the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China were the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations and that the People's Republic of China was one of the five permanent members of the Security Council. There was only one China, and the question of Taiwan was an internal affair of the People's Republic of China. His delegation was therefore against the inclusion of that issue in the agenda.

37. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Benin had asked to participate in the discussion of item 158. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to accede to that request.

38. It was so decided.

39. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Mongbé (Benin) took a place at the Committee table.

40. Mr. MONGBÉ (Benin) said that item 158 was a non-item and that most of his views had already been stated by 24 previous speakers, whose opinion he shared. His delegation supported the position of the People's Republic of China and considered that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had already settled once and for all a question that was and remained a purely Chinese concern. Taiwan was not a sovereign State but a province of China and only sovereign States could become Members of the United Nations. Any attempt to include that issue in the agenda constituted interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign State Member of the Organization. His delegation was therefore firmly opposed to the inclusion of the question in the agenda.

41. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Ukraine had asked to participate in the discussion of item 158. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to accede to that request.

42. It was so decided.

43. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Hudyma (Ukraine) took a place at the Committee table.

44. Mr. HUDYMA (Ukraine) said that his delegation associated itself with the delegations that had upheld China's position. His delegation supported the Chinese delegation and considered that Taiwan was part of China. The General Assembly had already resolved the question of the representation of China in the United Nations. Only sovereign States could be Member States; that was not the case of Taiwan. His delegation was therefore opposed to the inclusion of item 158 in the agenda.

45. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Malawi had asked to participate in the discussion of item 158 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

46. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Rubadiri (Malawi) took a place at the Committee table.

47. Mr. RUBADIRI (Malawi) said that he supported the representative of Swaziland, who had spoken on behalf of delegations that did not share the opinion of the majority that had come to the meeting with prepared texts to defend their usual positions.

48. The history of the two "sister" countries resembled that of Europe, which had undergone tremendous changes in the course of the twentieth century and was once again likely to be unrecognizable by the end of the century. His delegation was bringing up the question because it was necessary to seek a solution based on discussion in order to achieve peace and reconciliation. The establishment of an ad hoc committee would be a positive step in that direction, since it would help the two nations, which were already working towards that end, to achieve their aim of reconciliation. The question was how the United Nations could help them to achieve it.

49. He had been offended by the comment that the representative of China had made regarding the influence of donors on the position of certain delegations.

50. His delegation hoped that item 158 would be included in the agenda. It was an important and unavoidable issue that must be resolved in the spirit of the founders of the United Nations.

51. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Egypt had asked to participate in the discussion of item 158. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to accede to that request.

52. It was so decided.

53. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Abdel Aziz (Egypt) took a place at the Committee table.

54. Mr. ABDEL AZIZ (Egypt) repeated the views his delegation had expressed at the forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions of the General Assembly, namely, that

the 1943 Cairo Declaration and General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) confirmed that there was only one China, which was represented by the People's Republic of China. Any attempt to include that issue in the agenda constituted interference in China's internal affairs. The analogy with "parallel representation" did not apply. His delegation was opposed to the inclusion of the item in the agenda.

55. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of the Niger had asked to participate in the discussion of item 158 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

56. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mrs. Maikarfi (Niger) took a place at the Committee table.

57. Mrs. MAIKARFI (Niger) said that the Niger maintained diplomatic relations with the Republic of China on Taiwan and was a sponsor of the draft resolution contained in the annex to document A/50/145. Her delegation supported the inclusion of the issue in the agenda of the fiftieth session, as it had done at the forty-ninth session, bearing in mind the principle of universality and the parallel representation of divided countries. The role of the Republic of China on Taiwan in international affairs should encourage the Committee to consider the question and take favourable action in respect of that country.

58. Mr. ODLUM (Saint Lucia) said that his delegation was one of the sponsors of the proposal to include in the agenda the question of the representation of the Republic of China on Taiwan. Over the years, the Republic of China on Taiwan had built up a network of relations with a number of countries, particularly the least developed countries, and had provided various forms of assistance to marginalized countries.

59. The question was not a superficial one, since it was necessary to seek to accommodate countries that were exploring democratic ways of advancing their geo-political interests. The Republic of China on Taiwan was a model developing country that had built itself up by its own efforts and did not resort to terrorism to state its claims. The United Nations should engage in preventive diplomacy and seek creative ways of resolving problems through discussion while avoiding rejection and isolation.

60. His delegation was aware of the need to protect the fundamental principles of the United Nations. Without creating precedents that would undermine the unity and sovereignty of countries, it was necessary to find ways of breaking the deadlock on the issue of representation, which set the People's Republic of China against the Republic of China on Taiwan and which was likely to recur on a regular basis for the next 50 years. In the year of the Organization's fiftieth anniversary, the Committee should avoid compromising the fundamental principles of the United Nations and rejecting the democratic aspirations of any country; it must help the two countries to find a basis for coexistence.

61. His delegation proposed a three-point solution: (1) allow the inclusion of the issue in the agenda of the fiftieth session with the clear proviso that it would not be raised again at subsequent sessions; (2) set up an ad hoc committee to hold a substantive debate on the claim put forward by the Republic of China on Taiwan; and (3) once the issue had been discussed by the General Assembly,

consider that it had been definitively resolved and would not result in the confusion that had surrounded General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). It was well and good to be legalistic and show firmness but it would be better to seek a peaceful solution to the creation of one China.

62. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Afghanistan had asked to participate in the discussion of item 158. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to accede to that request.

63. It was so decided.

64. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Farhadi (Afghanistan) took a place at the Committee table.

65. Mr. FARHADI (Afghanistan) said that, by adopting its resolution 2758 (XXVI), the General Assembly had settled the issue in a just and definitive manner. He conceded, as one of the previous speakers had pointed out, that his delegation's statement had been prepared in advance and would be repeated, whenever the need arose, for the next 50 years. There was no need for an ad hoc committee to sort out an issue that had already been resolved.

66. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Botswana had asked to participate in the discussion of item 158. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to accede to that request.

67. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Legwaila (Botswana) took a place at the Committee table.

68. Mr. LEGWAILA (Botswana) said that his delegation was strongly opposed to the inclusion of item 158 in the agenda, since it recognized only one China, which should remain the sole Chinese representative at the United Nations. The Taiwan issue should be resolved by China, and the United Nations had no right to interfere. His delegation remained fully committed to resolution 2758 (XXVI), which had settled the issue of Chinese representation once and for all. The United Nations was not the appropriate forum to resolve the problem that existed between China and its province Taiwan.

69. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should not include item 158 in its agenda.

70. Mrs. Fuentes Orellana (Guatemala), Mr. Deire (Myanmar), Ms. Saine (Gambia), Mr. de Silva (Sri Lanka), Mr. Hallak (Syrian Arab Republic), Mr. Monqbé (Benin), Mr. Hudyma (Ukraine), Mr. Rubadiri (Malawi), Mr. Abdel Aziz (Egypt), Mrs. Maikarfi (Niger), Mr. Farhadi (Afghanistan) and Mr. Legwaila (Botswana) withdrew.

Item 159

71. Mr. CASTANEDA-CORNEJO (El Salvador), speaking on behalf of Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and El Salvador in connection with their

request to include a new item, entitled "Observer status for the Central American Integration System in the General Assembly", in the agenda, emphasized the importance that the countries of the subregion attached to the issue. Through the will of its peoples and Governments, Central America had managed to establish firm and lasting peace based on dialogue, democracy, justice and reconciliation. It was endeavouring to become a zone of peace, freedom, democracy and development, in accordance with the wishes of its people.

72. In order to achieve that goal, the subregion had established, under the Tegucigalpa Protocol signed in December 1991, the Central American Integration System, the primary objective of which was to promote and implement the priorities that had been formulated as part of the Alliance for Sustainable Development. Central American Governments attached considerable importance to the establishment of close relations between that subregional organization and multilateral bodies.

73. The subregion's efforts in that area had been recognized by various international bodies, in particular the Ibero-American Conference, the Organization of American States (OAS) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which had granted consultative status to the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System, and also by the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), with which the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System had signed a cooperation agreement. Bearing in mind the importance that Central American countries attached to the integration process and the fact that the Central American Integration System would be strengthened if it was granted observer status in the General Assembly, his delegation requested Member States, on behalf of Central American Governments, to give their strong support to the achievement of that goal. Such an approach would be in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 49/137, which recognized the importance of the Central American Integration System. Additional information could be found in document A/50/146.

74. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 159 in the agenda.

Item 160

75. Mr. LEGAL (France) asked the members of the Committee to support the request to include a new item, entitled "Multilingualism", in the agenda. The issue was very pressing and rather serious. For various reasons, mainly financial, delegations were finding it more and more difficult to make use of the official language of their choice.

76. While not wishing to dwell on the increasing number of instances in which the rule relating to the use of official languages had been broken, he stressed that, in its fiftieth anniversary year, the Organization should reaffirm its commitment to diversity. He warned against any additional budgetary constraints that might affect the interpretation and translation services at a time when workloads were constantly increasing. The initiative to include the item in the agenda had come from the Francophone Summit held in Ouagadougou in December 1994.

77. The issue did not simply concern the use of French in the Organization. It also affected anyone who wanted to use one of the six official languages, only to discover that the theoretical right to do so had been thwarted by material difficulties that were not, however, insurmountable. He thanked the delegations at the Ibero-American Summit for their support of the initiative and requested, on behalf of the sponsors, that the item should be included in the agenda and considered in plenary session.

78. Mr. GUTIÉRREZ (Costa Rica) said that, in a letter, dated 11 September 1995 to the Secretary-General (A/50/147/Add.2), the States members of the Ibero-American Summit had supported the request to include an additional item, entitled "Multilingualism", in the agenda (A/50/147).

79. On behalf of the Ibero-American Summit, his delegation requested the inclusion of the item in the agenda of the fiftieth session.

80. Mr. PEERTHUM (Mauritius) said that his delegation had sponsored the draft resolution on multilingualism and supported the inclusion of an item on that issue in the agenda.

81. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Benin had asked to participate in the discussion of item 160 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

82. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Mongbé (Benin) took a place at the Committee table.

83. Mr. MONGBÉ (Benin) joined the delegations of France, Costa Rica and Mauritius in recommending the inclusion of the item in the agenda. He was dismayed by a situation that had become increasingly unacceptable to many delegations. The United Nations should avoid becoming a monolingual organization and implement the relevant resolutions that specified six official languages and two working languages. The various arguments that were often advanced to justify the unjustifiable were a kind of smokescreen that should not be used against delegations wishing to participate fully in the work of the Organization.

84. Benin was due to chair the Francophone Summit in December 1995, and it could not remain indifferent to the inclusion of the issue of multilingualism in the agenda of the fiftieth session. He read out the list of French-speaking sponsors who had requested the inclusion of the item in the agenda.

85. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Afghanistan had asked to participate in the discussion of item 160. Article 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to accede to that request.

86. It was so decided.

87. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Farhadi (Afghanistan) took a place at the Committee table.

88. Mr. FARHADI (Afghanistan) said that many languages spoken in his country and around the world were not official languages of the United Nations. He nevertheless supported the inclusion in the agenda of the item on multilingualism and asked that his delegation be added to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution on the question.

89. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Malta had asked to participate in the discussion of item 160. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to accede to that request.

90. It was so decided.

91. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Cassar (Malta) took a place at the Committee table.

92. Mr. CASSAR (Malta) said that the question of multilingualism was generally raised by delegations that did not speak English. He would nevertheless like to present the question from the point of view of the other group, namely those delegations that spoke only English. It was just as important for delegations to make themselves understood as it was for them to speak. Comprehension was a key factor. It had become very difficult to conduct negotiations in an informal setting, since those who spoke only English and those who did not speak it had difficulty in understanding each other. His delegation supported the inclusion of the item in the agenda with a view to ensuring the full participation of all delegations.

93. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Egypt had asked to participate in the discussion on item 160 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

94. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Abdel Aziz (Egypt) took a place at the Committee table.

95. Mr. ABDEL AZIZ said that his delegation was one of those that spoke Arabic and had joined the efforts for the inclusion in the agenda of the question of multilingualism. Although there were six official languages, the work of the Organization was often conducted in two languages and sometimes in one alone. The Arabic-speaking delegations had difficulty in participating in the work of the General Assembly and in meetings of other bodies for that reason. His delegation advocated balance in the use of the official languages, and it supported the inclusion of the item in the agenda.

96. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 160 in the agenda.

97. Mr. Monqbé (Benin), Mr. Farhadi (Afghanistan), Mr. Cassar (Malta) and Mr. Abdel Aziz (Egypt) withdrew.

Item 161

98. Mr. LEGAL (France), after reading out the list of sponsors of the request for the inclusion of item 161 in the agenda, said that the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation (ACCT), an intergovernmental organization of 44 countries and Governments that shared the French language, had had observer status with the General Assembly since 1978. It sought to expand its cooperation with the United Nations, and the heads of State and Government of the francophone countries had adopted a resolution to that effect at their fifth summit conference, held in Mauritius in 1993. Seeking to encourage cooperation, solidarity and the will to work together, ACCT shared the ideals and goals of the United Nations, namely peace, stability and development. Closer working relations between the two organizations would therefore be mutually beneficial.

99. Mr. PEERTHUM (Mauritius) supported the request introduced by the representative of France.

100. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Benin had asked to participate in the discussion of item 161 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

101. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Monqbé (Benin) took a place at the Committee table.

102. Mr. MONGBÉ (Benin) said that ACCT, a partnership of developed and developing countries, already maintained very fruitful relations with a number of United Nations bodies. He therefore supported France and Mauritius in requesting the inclusion of the item in the agenda.

103. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 161 in the agenda.

104. Mr. Monqbé withdrew.

Items 162 to 164

105. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 162 to 164 in the agenda.

Item 165

106. Mr. LAMAMRA (Algeria) expressed appreciation to Denmark for having requested the inclusion in the agenda of the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development". It was very important to ensure that follow-up action was taken and to coordinate the measures that would be adopted in fulfilment of the commitments undertaken. Given that the General Assembly was the major forum for the coordination of such international efforts, his country supported the request.

107. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 165 in the agenda.

Item 166

108. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Panama had asked to participate in the discussion of the item in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

109. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Illueca (Panama) took a place at the Committee table.

110. Mr. ILLUECA (Panama) said that, for Panamanians, 31 December 1999 would be a crucial date. On that day, the Canal would come under the control of the Republic of Panama, which would assume full responsibility for its management, operation and maintenance. For that reason among others, the Panamanian Government had taken the initiative to convene in Panama in 1997 a Universal Congress on the Panama Canal focusing on three major topics: the service and its users; intellectual and technical aspects; and the ecological dimension. The Congress would provide an opportunity to define the role to be played by the Panama Canal in the twenty-first century in light of the requirements of sustainable development and environmental protection. The latter aspect was particularly important, since Panama's tropical forest of a century ago had been partially destroyed. The United Nations contribution was therefore essential, both for the Canal to continue to serve humanity effectively and for the necessary measures to be taken to protect natural resources. His delegation therefore requested that the additional item should be included in the agenda of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly.

111. Mr. ROSENSTOCK (United States of America) and Mr. LEGAL (France) supported the request of the representative of Panama.

112. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 165 in the agenda.

113. Mr. Illueca (Panama) withdrew.

Item 167

114. The CHAIRMAN said that the issue of the inclusion of that item had already been addressed in connection with the discussion on item 157, which the Committee had decided to recommend for inclusion in the agenda.

Item 168

115. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 168 in the agenda.

Item 169

116. The CHAIRMAN said that Namibia had joined the sponsors of the request for inclusion of an additional item, issued as document A/50/231.

117. Mr. HUARAKA (Namibia) said that his country, a neighbour of South Africa, had shared the misfortune of having been subjected to apartheid. The General

Assembly, which had fought a long battle against that evil regime and had taken the political decision to expel South Africa, must now take an equally political decision, in plenary, to normalize the situation. That issue was of the greatest importance not only to South Africa, but for the entire southern Africa region. The meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) held at Addis Ababa in June 1995 had endorsed the position presented by the South African Minister for Foreign Affairs, which was contained in the explanatory memorandum. He, therefore, requested the inclusion on the agenda of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly of an additional item entitled "Normalization of the situation concerning South Africa".

118. Mr. CAMACHO OMISTE (Bolivia), Mr. MUTHAURA (Kenya), Mr. LAMAMRA (Algeria), Mr. GUTIÉRREZ (Costa Rica) and Mr. KITTIKHOUN (Lao People's Democratic Republic) associated themselves with the statement of the representative of Namibia, and stressed that the new South Africa needed assistance from the international community to eliminate the aftermath of apartheid.

119. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Botswana had asked to participate in the discussion of the item. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. He took it that the Committee wished to accede to the request.

120. It was so decided.

121. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Legwaila (Botswana) took a place at the Committee table.

122. Mr. LEGWAILA (Botswana) supported the previous speakers and said that the victims of the crime of apartheid should not be punished for offences they had not committed. Therefore, he requested that the item should be considered by the General Assembly in a plenary meeting.

123. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Ukraine had asked to participate in the discussion of the item. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. He took it that the Committee wished to accede to the request.

124. It was so decided.

125. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Hudyma (Ukraine) took a place at the Committee table.

126. Mr. HUDYMA (Ukraine) said that his country, which was aware of the problems South Africa was experiencing, supported the statement just made by the representative of Namibia. However, aside from its political nature, that question had major financial implications, and should be considered by the Fifth Committee.

127. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 169 in the agenda.

128. Mr. Legwaila (Botswana) and Mr. Hudyma (Ukraine) withdrew.

Section V. Allocation of items

Paragraph 50

129. The CHAIRMAN said that in paragraph 50, the Secretary-General informed the Committee that the allocation of items was based on the pattern adopted by the General Assembly in previous years. In that connection, the Committee might wish to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 4 of its decision 34/401, which stated that substantive items should normally be discussed in a Main Committee and, therefore, items previously allocated to plenary meetings should henceforth be referred to a Main Committee unless there were compelling circumstances requiring their continued consideration in plenary meetings.

130. The Committee decided to draw the attention of the General Assembly to paragraph 4 of decision 34/401.

131. The CHAIRMAN said that, in paragraph 50, the Secretary-General drew the Committee's attention to paragraph 5 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 39/88 B, indicating that the Chairmen of the Main Committees should take the initiative, in the light of past experience, to propose the grouping of similar or related items and the holding of a single general debate on them. The Secretary-General also drew attention to paragraph 6 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 45/45, which stated that, in making recommendations on how agenda items should be allocated to the Main Committees and the plenary of the General Assembly, the Committee should ensure the best use of the expertise of the Committees.

132. Also in paragraph 50 of his memorandum, the Secretary-General drew the attention of the Committee to paragraphs 2 and 5 (b) and (d) of annex I of General Assembly resolution 48/264, stating that agenda items which were not of a nature that related to more than one Main Committee or which did not come within the purview of any Main Committee should be considered by the General Assembly in plenary meeting, taking into account the recommendations of the General Committee. Also, the Main Committees should be encouraged to continue with the review of their respective agendas, taking into account, inter alia, the following: items that covered related matters or issues could be considered in agreed clusters; the existing broad division of work among the Main Committees should be maintained.

Paragraph 51

133. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to a list of 12 items on the provisional agenda that had not been considered previously by the General Assembly and invited the Committee to make recommendations on their allocation.

134. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that items 153 and 154 should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

135. The CHAIRMAN said that the sponsor of the request for inclusion of item 155 in the agenda had proposed that it should be considered in plenary meeting.

136. Mr. ROSENSTOCK (United States of America) said that changing the mandate of the Trusteeship Council would involve amending Chapter XIII of the Charter. He proposed, therefore, that item 155 should be allocated to the Sixth Committee, which had the necessary expertise to conduct an in-depth technical debate on the matter. He recalled that similar action had been taken at the preceding session with regard to the provisions of the Charter concerning enemy States.

137. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Malta had asked to participate in the discussion of the item in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

138. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Cassar (Malta) took a place at the Committee table.

139. Mr. CASSAR (Malta) said that the role of the Trusteeship Council, one of the principal organs of the United Nations, should be reviewed first by the plenary Assembly. Although the Secretary-General had proposed that the abolition of the Trusteeship Council should be recommended, the Council itself, in its resolution 2200 (LXI), had decided to meet where and when appropriate. His delegation therefore proposed that the matter should be formally debated in plenary meeting. In his view, the analogy drawn by the representative of the United States with the way in which the question of the enemy State clause had been dealt with was not valid. Nevertheless, in a spirit of compromise, he proposed that a recommendation should be made to the General Assembly to begin its consideration of the item directly in plenary meeting and then to refer it to the Sixth Committee for more in-depth consideration.

140. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Benin had asked to participate in the discussion of the item. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to accede to the request.

141. It was so decided.

142. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Mongbé (Benin) took a place at the Committee table.

143. Mr. MONGBÉ (Benin) said that he wished to associate himself with the remarks just made by the representative of Malta and to support his proposal.

144. Mr. ROSENSTOCK (United States of America) said that, in a spirit of compromise, he would accept the proposal made by the delegation of Malta.

145. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should first consider item 155 directly in plenary meeting and then refer it to the Sixth Committee.

146. Mr. Mongbé (Benin) withdrew.

147. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should consider items 156, 159, 160, 161, 165, 166 and 168 directly in plenary meeting.

148. The CHAIRMAN noted that the delegation which had requested that item 169 should be included in the agenda had proposed that the Committee should recommend that the item be considered directly in plenary meeting.

149. Ms. WILMSHURST (United Kingdom) said that her delegation had been informed late about the request to have the item considered in plenary meeting. The normalization of the situation concerning South Africa was essentially a financial matter which, despite its undoubted political overtones, should be referred instead to the Fifth Committee. Further consultations were necessary and the Committee should therefore defer for a few days its decision concerning the item's referral.

150. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of South Africa had asked to participate in the discussion of item 169 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

151. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Jele (South Africa) took a place at the Committee table.

152. Mr. JELE (South Africa) said that the question was one of procedure. For years, South Africa's apartheid policy had been considered in plenary meeting because the members of the General Assembly had all agreed on the importance of the matter. South Africa's current situation in the Organization was politically exceptional and he sincerely hoped that that situation could be normalized as early as possible. South Africa would not be fully reintegrated into the community of nations until the issue was resolved. The Committee would no doubt appreciate South Africa's desire to have the item debated in plenary meeting to permit the General Assembly to adopt a consensus resolution thereon, as it had done at its forty-eighth session with the adoption of resolution 48/258 A. The unique situation in which South Africa found itself at that time was the result of a political decision by the General Assembly. It was therefore for the plenary Assembly to take a position by adopting a resolution on that outstanding item.

153. Mr. FEDOTOV (Russian Federation) said that the question posed no political difficulties for his delegation. The Russian Federation had actively supported the resumption of South Africa's participation in the work of the General Assembly. It was therefore not opposed to the inclusion of item 169 in the Assembly's agenda, although it had been informed about the initiative at a very late stage. It had some difficulty, however, in determining to which organ of the Assembly the item should be referred. The content of the draft resolution proposed in document A/50/231 suggested that it had not only political but also financial implications. A quick reference to paragraph 3 of the draft resolution would confirm that view. The problem was one of settling a debt which concerned not only South Africa but also many other Governments and which had certain implications for the financial situation of the Organization. The Russian Federation's position of principle was that such matters should be sent preferably to the Fifth Committee. His delegation wished, however, to refer the matter to the Russian Government and to hold further consultations. It therefore supported the compromise proposal made by the United Kingdom and suggested that the Committee should defer its decision on the matter.

154. Mr. LEGAL (France) said that his delegation readily acknowledged the special nature of South Africa's situation with regard to the treatment of its outstanding contributions. It agreed that an ad hoc formula should be devised so that that Member State, which for many years had suffered the consequences of the apartheid regime, should not have to bear the entire burden of its arrears. That was why his delegation had joined in the consensus to include the new item 169 in the agenda. However, at the procedural level, the document before the Committee had come as a surprise to his delegation. In principle, an item which had undoubted financial implications should not be entirely removed from consideration by the organ of the General Assembly which was normally competent to consider it, namely, the Fifth Committee. Given the Organization's serious financial difficulties, which were largely due to the failure of States to pay their contributions on time, it would perhaps be dangerous to decide to disregard, even for excellent reasons, the applicable rule of procedure. Such action risked establishing a bad precedent. However, since it had only just recently been informed of the proposal, his delegation had not taken a final position on the matter and would like a little more time to carefully consider, in consultation with the French authorities and the main delegations concerned, the full implications of the proposal. It therefore joined those other delegations which had suggested that the Committee should postpone its consideration of the matter for a few days.

155. Mr. REYN (Belgium) said that, given the sensitive nature of the issue, it would be advisable to give delegations a little more time to decide on their position. He therefore supported the United Kingdom's proposal to defer consideration of the matter.

156. Mr. ZHANG Wanhai (China) said that the matter was essentially a political one and should therefore be considered by the plenary Assembly. He noted, however, that several delegations had indicated their desire to seek instructions from their respective Governments. China was therefore not opposed to the suggestion to defer consideration of the matter.

157. Mr. JELE (South Africa) said that his delegation agreed with the proposal to postpone consideration of the matter for a few days.

158. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should defer its decision on item 169 in order to give delegations enough time to hold consultations.

159. It was so decided.

160. Mr. Jele (South Africa) withdrew.

Paragraph 52

161. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that in paragraph 52, in connection with item 12 of the provisional agenda, the Secretary-General made proposals for allocation of the various parts of the report of the Economic and Social Council.

162. The General Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should endorse the proposed allocation.

Paragraph 53

163. The Committee decided to recommend, in connection with item 18, that the General Assembly should assign to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) all chapters of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and that it should consider in plenary the question of the implementation of the Declaration in general.

Paragraph 54

164. The CHAIRMAN recalled that, in paragraph 54, in connection with item 20 (c), the Secretary-General drew the General Committee's attention to resolution 1995/47 B of the Economic and Social Council, in which the Council, inter alia, recommended that the General Assembly should consider the question of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction as a separate sub-item under item 98 which had traditionally been allocated to the Second Committee.

165. Mr. HUARAKA (Namibia) proposed that item 98 (c) entitled "Sustainable use and conservation of the marine living resources of the high seas" should be clustered with item 39 (Law of the sea) and that both questions should be considered directly in the plenary. In August 1995, the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks which had been convened by the General Assembly, had reached an agreement for implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 concerning the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks. The agreement in question would be open for signature on 4 December 1995, i.e., at approximately the same time as the dates proposed for the plenary debate on item 39. The date had been chosen by the Conference deliberately so that representatives who had to travel far would have no difficulty in participating in the debates and signing the agreement. The clustering of item 98 (c) and item 39 would enable delegates to engage in more efficient and coherent consideration of the issues covered by the two items which both related to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

166. The CHAIRMAN said that the delegation of Japan, which was not a member of the General Committee, had asked for the floor. If there was no objection, he would grant that request.

167. It was so decided.

168. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Horiguchi took a place at the Committee table.

169. Mr. HORIGUCHI (Japan) considered that it was inappropriate to cluster item 98 (c) and item 39. Firstly in previous years item 98 (c) had been allocated to the Second Committee as part of the follow-up on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The preparation of a draft agreement for implementation of the provisions relating to the conservation and management

of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks was based on a decision taken by that Conference. Secondly, item 98 (c) covered not only the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks but also unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas, large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing and by-catch and discards of living resources. Those items were more closely related to the environment and sustainable development than to the Law of the Sea, and could be better handled by experts within the Second Committee.

170. Mr. KANE (Mauritania) recalled that in recent years, the General Assembly had clustered together agenda items of a similar nature. Consideration of item 98 (c) assumed a special character, during the current year, by virtue of the agreement that had just been reached. It would therefore be appropriate, with a view to guaranteeing success of the agreement, to consider at the same time the more general item relating to the law of the sea and the sub-item relating to sustainable conservation of marine resources.

171. Mr. LEGAL (France) said that it would be useful, for practical reasons, to cluster the two items, at least for the time being, since it was often the same experts who dealt with the two subjects and it would be better to avoid their having to make two trips during the General Assembly. He hoped that a practical arrangement could be found without prejudice to the position of Japan.

172. Mr. ROSENSTOCK (United States) and Mr. BELLE (Belgium) supported the proposal made by Namibia, since, in the view of both delegations, the two questions were related to the law of the sea.

173. Mr. MAQUIEIRA (Chile) was in favour of clustering the two items. Indeed, other meetings on the Law of the Sea were due to take place on approximately the same date as that scheduled for consideration of item 39. He mentioned, in particular, a meeting of the States parties to the Convention on the Law of the Sea and a meeting of the International Sea-Bed Authority. It would therefore be logical to cluster that item with item 98 (c), especially since they would both be studied by the same experts and since it was important, in particular for developing countries, to economize on travel.

174. The CHAIRMAN said that the delegation of Egypt, which was not a member of the General Committee, had requested the floor. If there was no objection, he would grant that request.

175. It was so decided.

176. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Abdel Aziz (Egypt) took a place at the Committee table.

177. Mr. ABDEL AZIZ (Egypt) endorsed the Namibian proposal.

178. Ms. WILMSHURST (United Kingdom) also supported that proposal, which had practical merits.

179. The General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 98, including the additional sub-item entitled "International Decade on Natural Disaster Reduction" (but not item 98 (c) entitled "Sustainable use and conservation of marine living resources of the high seas"), should be allocated to the Second Committee.

180. At the request of Mr. HORIGUCHI (Japan), the CHAIRMAN specified that the decision to cluster the two items would only apply to the fiftieth session.

181. The General Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should consider directly, in plenary meeting, item 98 (c) together with item 39.

182. Mr. Horiguchi (Japan) and Mr. Abdel Aziz (Egypt) withdrew.

Paragraph 55

183. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that, as at previous sessions, item 48 should be considered directly in plenary meeting, on the understanding that organizations and individuals having an interest in the question would be heard in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) in conjunction with its consideration in plenary meeting.

Paragraph 56

184. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 55 should be allocated at an appropriate time during the session.

Paragraph 57

185. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the paragraphs of the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency dealing with the subject-matter of item 70 should be brought to the attention of the First Committee in connection with its consideration of that item.

Paragraph 58

186. The CHAIRMAN said that, in paragraph 58, with regard to item 107, the Secretary-General recalled paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 49/152. In paragraph 3 of the resolution, the General Assembly had decided to devote up to four plenary meetings at its fiftieth session to mark the tenth anniversary of International Youth Year and to consider, with a view to adopting it, the world programme of action for youth towards the year 2000 and beyond. In paragraph 4, it had invited Member States to participate in the plenary meetings at a high political level and requested the Secretariat to schedule those meetings as close as possible to 24 October 1995 to facilitate such participation.

187. The Committee decided that the meetings should be held on Thursday and Friday, 26 and 27 October 1995.

Paragraph 59

188. The CHAIRMAN recalled that in paragraph 59 regarding item 109, the Secretary-General had drawn the Committee's attention to paragraph 16 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 39/125.

189. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the annual report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the operations, management and budget of the United Nations Development Fund for Women should be referred to the Second Committee for consideration under item 99.

Paragraph 60

190. The CHAIRMAN said that in paragraph 60 with regard to item 114 (b), the Secretary-General recalled General Assembly resolution 49/213 whereby the Assembly had decided, inter alia, to mark the end of the United Nations Year for Tolerance at a special commemorative plenary meeting of its fiftieth session.

191. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the special commemorative plenary meeting should be held in its fiftieth session at a date to be fixed.

Paragraph 61

192. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 120 should be allocated to the Fifth Committee, on the understanding that the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit dealing with subject-matters assigned to other Main Committees would be referred to those Committees.

Paragraph 62

193. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration in plenary meeting, including the four plenary meetings to mark the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year and the special commemorative plenary meeting to mark the end of the United Nations Year for Tolerance and also including items 153, 154, 156, 157, 159, 160, 161, 165, 166 and 168, and excluding item 55 (Question of Cyprus), taking into account the decisions taken on items 20 (c), 98 (c), 125 and 167 and pending a decision on item 169, should be considered in plenary meeting.

Items proposed for allocation to the First Committee

194. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for allocation to the First Committee should be allocated to that Committee.

Items proposed for allocation to the Fourth Committee

195. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for allocation to the Fourth Committee, taking into account its decisions on the items entitled "Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses,

Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India" and "Question of East Timor", should be allocated to that Committee.

Items proposed for allocation to the Second Committee

196. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for allocation to the Second Committee, including under item 98 the additional sub-item on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, and excluding item 98 (c), should be allocated to that Committee.

Items proposed for allocation to the Third Committee

197. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for allocation to the Third Committee should be allocated to that Committee.

Items proposed for allocation to the Fifth Committee

198. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for allocation to the Fifth Committee, including item 120 but excluding item 138, should be allocated to that Committee.

Items proposed for allocation to the Sixth Committee

199. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for allocation to the Sixth Committee, taking into account its decision on item 155, should be allocated to that Committee.

The meeting rose at 6.40 p.m.